

## 18. COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

### Plan Framework for Coastal Management

The campus is located within the existing urban grid network of downtown St. Petersburg. The southern boundary of the campus is the existing seawall edge of Bayboro Harbor. For ease of circulation and maneuvering, the marine sciences peninsula has an existing impervious surface perimeter abutting the seawall. The academic portion of the campus abutting Bayboro Harbor is set back with an open space buffer extending from the peninsula west to Poynter Park. Enhanced utilization and expansion of this green space is proposed by extending it into the peninsula and terminating it with the extension of First Street South. Additional open spaces/plazas will be created on campus with the closure of the existing roadways.

According to the flood insurance rate map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the entire USFSP campus, except for the area generally northwest of Seventh Avenue and Third Street South, is located within Flood Zone AE-8, an area of 100-year floods. This classification requires that the base floor elevation for new construction be at nine feet above mean sea level. Bayboro Harbor, South Creek, and a portion of the Port of St. Petersburg are identified as Manatee habitat areas. Special consideration should be associated with any expansion of boating activity within Bayboro Harbor. With proper treatment of stormwater in conjunction with the increased open space along the bayfront, it appears that the 10-year master plan will not have any negative effects on coastal management.

The peninsula of the campus is located in Evacuation Zone A, and the remaining portion of the campus is located in an Evacuation Zone B. According to the City's Emergency Recovery Plan, the largest tract of open space that has been identified as suitable for staging of emergency resources is located at the Tropicana Field complex located in western downtown. Due to the location of the campus within these evacuation zones, it is anticipated that immediately after a hurricane occurrence, portions of the campus could still be flooded and would not be suitable for staging. If emergency requirements were to force staging within the campus area, the proposed parking west of Fourth Street South and south of Sixth Avenue South could be appropriate. This location is the farthest from the waterfront and is close to medical facilities. The hurricane shelter located at Eighth Avenue South and Ninth Street North at the Southside Fundamental School is the closest designated hurricane shelter to the campus. It should be noted that these hurricane shelters operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Currently, none of the existing structures on campus are designated as public or natural disaster shelters.

**Goal**

The Coastal Management goal of the USFSP campus plan is for campus development to enhance access and improve the environment of the Bayboro Harbor waterfront as well as strengthen emergency preparedness for the campus.

**Summary of Objectives and Policies**

Objective 18.1. Continue coordination with the local communities and agencies for the evacuation and coordination of USFSP facilities related to hurricane and natural disasters.

Policy 18.1.1. USFSP shall continue its on-going working relationship with the host community, Regional Planning Council, American Red Cross and other agencies as appropriate to ensure that evacuation plans are monitored and kept current.

Policy 18.1.2. USFSP shall provide an awareness information package to enrolling students and faculty as to the evacuation plans including shelter locations and routes.

Policy 18.1.3. Upon adoption of public shelter standards and criteria by the Florida Board of Education, USFSP shall survey existing facilities to identify those facilities suitable for use as public shelters.

Policy 18.1.4. Upon completion of the shelter survey, USFSP shall identify those facilities that are to be retrofitted to comply with the public shelter standards and criteria adopted by the Florida Board of Education. These facilities shall then be scheduled for retrofitting for use as public shelters.

Policy 18.1.5. New buildings shall be constructed in accordance with the public shelter standards and criteria adopted by the Florida Board of Education (if a deficit of shelter spaces exists) unless the Florida Board of Education, with concurrence from the local emergency management office and the Department of Community Affairs, exempts the building or part thereof because of the building's location, size, or some other characteristic.

Policy 18.1.6. USFSP shall construct new facilities in accordance with revised adopted building code standards and flood zone regulations.

Policy 18.1.7. USFSP shall cooperate with the City regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

Policy 18.1.8. : The University shall adhere to its emergency recovery plan, which addresses such issues as "restarting" the campus after a natural disaster. Issues such as road cleaning, facility start-up, reuse of facilities, operations, etc., should be considered as well as coordination with the host community.

Policy 18.1.9. USFSP shall designate, should additional open tracts of land be necessary for the use of staging of emergency equipment and personnel, the parking lot west of Fourth Street South and south of Sixth Avenue South.

Policy 18.1.10. USFSP shall implement a program for identifying and eliminating deficiencies related to conformance of USFSP facilities with current coastal management standards.

Objective 18.2. Develop a hurricane evacuation plan for on-campus housing residents.

Policy 18.2.1 Prior to the construction of on-campus housing, USFSP should work with the appropriate agencies to develop an evacuation plan for campus residents.

Objective 18.3. Improve pedestrian access to the Bayboro Harbor waterfront by coordination with the Poynter Park and proposed new campus open space.

Policy 18.3.1. USFSP, through its master plan program, shall provide enhanced access to the academic portion of Bayboro Harbor waterfront. This open space should be coordinated with the Poynter Park to the west and the open space plazas within the new campus greenways and plazas.

Policy 18.3.2. USFSP shall continue to evaluate, as appropriate, opportunities for the public to have access to the peninsula. Concerns regarding safety and on-going working conditions of the peninsula should be considered.

